GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:615
ANSWERED ON:23.02.2001
IMPACT OF MULTILATERAL TREATIES ON DOMESTIC INDUSTRIES
A. VENKATESH NAIK

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have registered its concerns with the World Trade Organization over the impact of multilateral treaties on Indian domestic industries;

(b) if so, the response of WTO thereto; and

(c) the countries which have supported India in this matter?

Answer

MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN)

(a) & (b) : Based on the experience of implementation of various WTO agreements, India along with some other like minded group of countries had demanded urgent satisfactory resolution of several implementation related concerns of the developing countries in the preparatory process at WTO Geneva for the III Ministerial Conference at SeattleAfter the inconclusive Ministerial Conference at Seattle, the General Council of WTO in its May 2000 meeting had, as a part of the Confidence Building exercise for the developing countries, decided that all implementation related concerns of the developing countries should be addressed as per the WTO work programme. Though till now, only modest progress has been made in the resolution of the implementation related concerns, the General Council in its December 2000 meeting has reiterated that implementation related concerns of the developing countries should be addressed as per the work programme.

(c) : On this issue, India has been supported by various developing countries which include Egypt, Indonesia, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Cuba, Pakistan, Nigeria, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Honduras and Uganda who had also cosponsored the Indian proposal on `Implementation Issues` under document No.WT/GC/W354 and 355 dated 11/10/1999.